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REPORT
OF
HON. DAVID L. SWAIN, LL.D.,
ON THE
HISTORICAL AGENCY
FOR PROCURING
DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE OF THE HISTORY OF
NORTH-CAROLINA.

RALEIGH:
HOLDEN & WILSON, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.

1857.



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HISTORICAL AGENCY.

The joint select committee, to whom was referred the message of the Governor, with the accompanying papers from the Historical Agent of the State, have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report :

That the message of the Governor presents to the General Assembly the report of the historical agent of the State, and recommends a continuance of the agency.

That the report of the agent consists of a series of letters either written by or addressed to the agent, in the discharge of the duties of his office, reporting the progress made in the collection of material, and assigns satisfactory reasons for the delay on the part of the agent in the prosecution of the extended search for documentary history contemplated by the Legislature. And, to the end that the fullest information may be given, that a memorial be made of the patriotic efforts on the part of the State authorities to garner up all that is valuable in the past history of the State, the committee do recommend the printing of the report entire, not exceeding 300 copies, to be distributed by order of the General Assembly.

And, furthermore, to carry out the praiseworthy purposes of the Legislature, that created the agency, and that the scattered and broken links of our colonial history may be collected and placed in the hands of the future historian, and "our story be told with truth," the committee do recommend the adoption of the accompanying resolution, providing for the continuance of the agency :

Resolved, That the agent appointed under the resolution of the last General Assembly, to procure documentary evidence in relation to the History of North-Carolina, may, in case he shall deem it necessary to do so, examine the public archives, and other sources of information of our sister States, as well

as the mother country, upon the conditions set forth in the said resolution, and report proceedings to the General Assembly at as early a period as may admit of the proper performance of the duties assigned to him.

PAUL C. CAMERON, *Chairman.*

*To the Honorable the General Assembly
of the State of North-Carolina:*

I transmit herewith a report from the Hon. David L. Swain, agent to procure documentary evidence of the history of the State.

The report will explain to you very fully what has been done, what it was the object of the agent to accomplish, and the circumstances which prevented his collecting any historical materials from abroad.

The copy of "Tryon's Letter Book" has been deposited in the Executive office, where it may be seen, and is subject to your disposition.

By the terms of the resolution of the General Assembly, by virtue of which an agent was appointed, such agency ceases at this session of your honorable body.

I respectfully recommend the passage of a resolution, authorizing the continuance of the agency, with authority to the agent to examine the public archives, and other sources of information of our sister States, as well as those of the mother country.

THOMAS BRAGG.

REPORT.

CHAPEL HILL, Decem. 1, 1856.

Sir :—In my letter of the 20th November, 1855, I advised your Excellency of the course I had pursued, and the progress I had made under the resolutions of the last General Assembly, authorizing you to appoint an agent to obtain from the proper offices in London documentary evidence in relation to the history of the State, and from Harvard University a copy of Governor Tryon's Letter Book.

I had the pleasure, a few weeks thereafter, to receive a copy of the Letter Book, prepared with extraordinary neatness and accuracy, under the supervision of Jared Sparks, LL.D., by the late James W. Harris, Esq., of Cambridge. Mr. Harris's receipt for the stipulated compensation for services so faithfully rendered, amounting to \$108, is enclosed. This sum, with the addition of one per cent. premium on the check remitted, may be deposited to my credit in the Bank of the State. The Letter Book is also sent herewith.

Since the receipt of your letter of the 15th May, 1855, requesting my attention to this subject, no opportunity has been neglected to obtain all the information in my power in relation to documentary evidence of our history at home or abroad. I have taken great pains to ascertain the sources whence materials may be drawn, and the extent to which they exist in this and other States, in order to satisfy myself whether it is necessary to extend researches to the mother country, and to prepare myself in this event for the intelligent performance of the trust committed to me.

I suppose there are few important papers in North-Carolina which reflect light upon the Colonial Era, which are not in my possession, or at my command.

To the kind attention of Tristram L. Skinner, Esq., of Eden-

ton, I am indebted for permission, obtained by him from the County Court of Chowan, to transmit to me four folios, containing all the records of the General Court and Court of Chancery of North-Carolina, from 1697 to 1730, and to James E. Norfleet, Esq., of Edenton, for two volumes custom house records of Port Roanoke, from 1725 to 1743. The judicial records are not merely of great but indispensable importance to the historian. I have given a receipt for them to the Clerk of Chowan court, and have stipulated to return them in reasonable time. I trust, however, that you will be able, through the intervention of the General Assembly, to secure permanent possession of them for the State.

The liberality of Thomas P. Devereux, Esq., has enriched the Archives of the Historical Society of the University with a neat and accurate copy of all the portions of the Letter Book of his ancestors, Thomas and Cullen Pollock, which possess historical value.

Thou as Pollock was, as you are aware, Deputy to one of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina, during a period of thirty years, and was at one time at the head of the government, as President of the Council. In the latter character he assumed the reins of government, on the demise of Governor Hyde in 1712, and discharged the duties of the executive department with eminent prudence and discretion, in the midst of some of the most dangerous emergencies in our history. He was a member of the council, and sustained the legitimate authority of Governor Glover during the entire period of Cary's rebellion, and his correspondence exhibits no inconsiderable portion of all the information accessible at present in relation to a civil commotion, which, in its consequences, threatened, and too nearly prodneed, the extinction of the colony.

Virginia and South-Carolina have laid the best possible foundation for the construction of their history in the publication of their statutes at large, with illustrative documents, notes, and references. Both of these collections, but especially the former, the earlier and better work, are deeply interesting in connection with our history, and serve to show

the importance of similar attention on our part to forgotten and neglected records.

The trustees of the State Library, (the Governor and Judges of the Supreme Court) have recently made a judicious beginning, which it is to be hoped will, in due time, result in the accomplishment of a like enterprise, on the part of North-Carolina.

In 1715, the General Assembly revised and re-enacted the whole body of statute law then in force. There was no printing office in the Province, and twelve manuscript copies were prepared, and one deposited in the clerk's office of each Precinct Court.

The existence of this revisal was unknown during a long series of years, until about a quarter of a century ago, when two mutilated and moth-eaten copies were discovered in the office of the Secretary of State. Two or three years since, a third imperfect copy was presented to the Rev. Dr. Hawks, by William B. Rodman, Esq., of Washington. A successful effort is in progress, to secure, by a collation of the three defective manuscripts, a perfect copy of our earliest revisal; and the work admirably executed by the Rev. Dr. Wheat, of the University, will soon be ready for the State Library.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary to enter into further details with respect to domestic sources of historical information. I venture to intimate, nevertheless, the confident opinion, that very interesting materials will reward proper research in the public offices of Virginia, and the archives of the Historical Societies of South-Carolina and Georgia.

In relation to documentary evidence abroad, I deem it merely necessary to direct your attention to the accompanying correspondence, which may be examined in the numerical order in which it is presented, and which will sufficiently explain itself.

You will perceive that owing to diplomatic difficulties between this country and England, and occurrences which for a time prevented cordial intercourse between Mr. Crampton and the American Secretary of State, I was subjected to unavoidable embarrassment and delay in the prosecution of my

designs. In relation to this matter, I am under great obligations to my friend Mr. Dobbin, the Secretary of the Navy, who, though oppressed by official duties, rendered more arduous and onerous by delicate health, co-operated most cordially and effectually, in my attempts to accomplish the purposes of the General Assembly.

My agency, as you are aware, expires by the limitation imposed by the resolution under which I have been acting, with the present General Assembly. If further services of a similar character shall be desired—and of the necessity for further research, my former and present communication will afford the means of arriving at a satisfactory conclusion—the General Assembly will of course allow further time, and authorize proper research in the archives of our sister States, as well as the mother country.

I have the honor to be,

With high consideration,

Your obedient servant,

D. L. SWAIN.

To his Excellency, THOMAS BRAGG.

[I.—HON. JAMES C. DOBBIN TO D. L. SWAIN.]

WASHINGTON, December 4th, 1855.

Dear Sir: I snatch a moment from the political bustle agitating the federal metropolis, to perform simply a courteous duty of acknowledging the receipt of your truly interesting and patriotic letter. I intend to avail myself of the first opportunity, and endeavor to help you in the laudable enterprise in which you are engaged.

Just at this particular time it may not be decorous to open the subject to Mr. Crampton. We are personally on very good terms indeed, and I know he is quite accommodating.

* * * * *

Be assured the subject shall not escape my attention and active co-operation.

Accept assurances of the high respect

Of your friend and obedient servant,

J. C. DOBBIN.

[II.—SAME TO SAME.]

WASHINGTON, February 26, 1856.

My Dear Sir: You are right in your conjectures, that at present our relations with Mr. Crampton forbid my asking any favor of him. It is to be regretted—but his conduct was inconsiderate and improper. I enclose you a letter of introduction to Mr. Dallas. Whenever you address him, enclose it, and I have no doubt he will cheerfully do what he can.

Our relations with England are not pleasant just now. Her construction of the treaty of 1850 is singularly erroneous. She has unquestionably violated it. Her recruitment of soldiers in our territory was equally wrong, and offensive to our pride. She might venture *that*, in a little *German* principal-ity—but not in a country claiming to be her equal. She directed Mr. C. to be particular and not violate our law, but to get soldiers. Her apology is, “*I am sorry if your feelings are hurt*”—“*but Crampton did nothing wrong, and we find no fault with him.*” *I hope it may all be settled. We don't want war—we are for peace—but honor.*

Your friend,

J. C. DOBBIN.

[III.—D. L. SWAIN TO HON. GEORGE M. DALLAS.]

CHAPEL HILL, 1st March, 1856.

Sir: The enclosed note from the Hon. James C. Dobbin, explains the reasons which render it proper and necessary for

me to address you upon the present occasion. The accompanying volume, entitled "Indexes to Documents relative to North-Carolina during the Colonial existence of the State," will serve the purpose of explaining more fully and clearly, the objects I have in view, and the nature of the duties which, at the instance of Governor Bragg, acting under the authority of resolutions of our last General Assembly, I have undertaken to perform.

The volume referred to, a manuscript copy of which was deposited by Mr. Gallatin in the office of the American Legation, in London, in 1827, shows that in the office of the Board of Trade and in the State-Paper Office, many documents and records of great value, in connection with the history of North-Carolina, are on file, and that permission for such agent as the State might designate for the purpose, was most courteously given, to take copies of all or any portion, that might be desired. I wish to obtain through you, a renewal of the courtesy and liberality.

Carolina was, as you are aware, originally a Proprietary Government. The first charter was dated 24th March, 1663; the second on the 30th of June, 1665. These charters granted to the Earl of Clarendon, the Duke of Albemarle, Lord Craven, Lord Berkley, Lord Ashley, Sir George Carteret, Sir William Berkley and Sir John Colleton, all the lands between the southern boundary of Virginia ($36^{\circ} 30'$) on the north, and the 29th parallel of latitude on the south, and from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific ocean on the west.

The Proprietary Government existed from 1663 to 1729, (a period of sixty-six years,) when all the Proprietors relinquished the sovereignty, and all of them, with the exception of Lord Granville, surrendered the title to the soil to the crown. He retained the right of soil, and in 1744 his eighth part was conveyed to him in severalty, by metes and bounds. It embraced the area between the southern boundary of Virginia, and a line parallel with it, at the distance of about 66 miles south, and extending from the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west. This title Lord Granville retained until the American revolution, and in the early years of the present

century attempted to maintain it before the Circuit Court of the United States, at Raleigh, on the ground that the change of government worked neither forfeiture nor escheat of his lands. The suit was ultimately removed, by writ of error, to the Supreme Court of the United States, where it abated, by the death of the Earl during the late war with Great Britain.

From the beginning of the royal government, in 1729, until the opening scenes of the revolution, in 1774, these indexes show that ample materials for the elucidation of our history are to be found in the public offices in London. The obscure periods about which comparatively little is known, are from 1663 to 1729, embracing the existence of the Proprietary Government—and the early years of the revolutionary war.

Mr. Gallatin supposed, apparently with good reason, that much information in relation to the former period might be obtained by the examination of unarranged files in the office of the Board of Trade, of records entitled "Proprieties and Carolina." See his letter to Governor Burton and the accompanying communications from the Secretary of the Board of Trade, and Lord Dudley, Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, pages 3, 4, 5, 6 of the pamphlet referred to.

I venture to anticipate satisfactory results from such an examination, but to guard against disappointment, desire to make proper arrangements for the further prosecution of my researches, if it shall be found necessary.

Chalmers, in the composition of his *Political Annals*, seems to have had many papers at his command, in relation to our early history, to which no subsequent writers have had access. Williamson (*Hist. N. C.*, vol. 1, p. 9, pref.) states that he applied to Chalmers for permission to take copies from his collections, which was discourteously refused.

Grahame (*Col. Hist. U. S.*, vol. 1, p. xii) seems to have been favored with ready admission to the library of the "distinguished American annalist." He adds little, however, to our previous stock of information about the Proprietary Government. I suppose, therefore, that the papers must have passed from the hands of the Secretary before the sojourn of Grahame in London, and may be found among the unarranged

records referred to by Mr. Gallatin, or that they were restored to the Lord's Proprietors, who held the office of Palatine, at the successive periods to which they relate. If the latter supposition shall prove to be well founded I presume that the heads of these noble houses will receive with favor an application through the American Legation for copies of such papers as may serve to illustrate their own history, as well as the annals of Carolina. Mr. Bancroft promised me, some time since, to enter into a correspondence with Lord Shaftsbury, upon this subject, but I have not yet been advised of the receipt of any communication from the latter.

In relation to our revolutionary history, I have recently been so fortunate as to obtain a perfect copy of the Letter Book of Governor Tryon, and the Journals of the Council, during the entire period of his administration, from October, 1764, to June, 1771, containing very full as well as authentic details in relation to the commotion produced by the passage of the Stamp Act and the war with the Regulators. The original was purchased for Harvard College, in 1845, by Mr. Stevens, of a bookseller in London. The recovery of this important record suggests the enquiry whether the Letter Book of Tryon's successor, Josiah Martin, the last of our royal Governors, may not be obtained from some source, and thus supply in connection with the Tryon Papers, a continuous official narrative of the leading events in the revolutionary history of North-Carolina.

There was probably no single loyalist, who, throughout the American revolution, rendered such efficient services to the mother country, as John Hamilton. At the beginning of the war, he was the leading merchant in the province. He commanded a regiment under Lord Cornwallis during the invasions of 1780 and 1781, and was a gentleman of ability, intelligence and integrity. For many years subsequent to the revolution, he was his Britannic Majesty's Consul at Norfolk.

Major Craig, who in 1812, was Sir James Henry Craig, Governor-General of Canada, took possession of Wilmington, early in 1781, preparatory to the second invasion of Lord Cornwallis. He maintained his position until the surrender

of Yorktown rendered his retreat necessary, in the autumn of the following year. Governor Burke and suite were his prisoners in September, 1781, and the Governor was, under his orders, confined for some months, as a prisoner of State. The papers of these two gentlemen, if they can be obtained, will probably be found to be not less interesting and important, than those of Governors Tryon and Martin.

I do not wish to go abroad until I shall have satisfied myself with respect to the nature and extent of the collections that can be made in our own country. My present plan is to visit London, not earlier than May, 1857. May I venture to ask, in behalf of the State of North-Carolina, that such previous enquiries and arrangements may be made, as may comport with your convenience, and enable me to accomplish, as nearly as may be practicable, the wise and liberal purposes contemplated by our General Assembly.

I have the honor to be,

With high consideration,

Your obedient servant,

D. L. SWAIN.

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[IV.—HON. G. M. DALLAS TO HON. J. C. DOBBIN.]

LONDON, Aug. 18, 1856.

My Dear Sir: Your letter of the 4th instant, accompanied by another addressed to yourself by Ex-Governor Swain, with a bound pamphlet of "Indexes to Colonial Documents, N. C.," reached me yesterday. I will give the purposes of Gov. Swain every aid in my power, especially as soon as I feel somewhat relieved of the Central American negotiation, which is tapering to the signing point. There may be difficulties in ascertaining the *locus in quo* of the displaced records, for the best employe' here is reluctant and unreliable in making a *private* search, without assurance of compensation for trouble,

and of copying, if successful. You shall hear from me again, however, at an early day.

Always faithfully yours,

G. M. DALLAS.

Hon. J. C. DOBBIN, &c.

[V.—SAME TO SAME.]

LONDON, August 22, 1856.

My Dear Sir: Since writing the enclosed, I have had the pleasure to meet Mr. Somerby, an American gentleman well known to Gen. Cushing, who was kind enough, at my request, to examine the State-Paper Office, and other receptacles of records, and whose familiarity with the operation enables him to say at once—

1. That there are many papers readily accessible connected with the Colonial history of North-Carolina, not adverted to in the volume of Indexes sent by Governor Swain, some at dates as early as 1661, and multitudes subsequent to 1775.

2. That South-Carolina has already obtained abstracts of such papers, as, under the general label of "Carolina papers," were of dates anterior to the separation, and of these it is presumable Governor Swain could easily obtain copies from Charleston.

3. That abstracts of all the papers connected with North-Carolina, whether in the State-Paper Office, the British Museum, or elsewhere, can certainly be had; but the trouble and expense would be great, and unless Gov. Swain prefers coming himself, to superintend the proceeding here, Mr. Somerby thinks he could secure all sufficient abstracts by directing and guiding a copyist, if the sum of £100 were, in advance, placed under the control of some one here, to be applied exclusively to that object.

Mr. Somerby is already engaged in pursuing a similar search and examination for the State of Maine. He tells me that a bill was introduced into Congress, authorising an appropria-

tion of 20,000 dollars, to enable the government to get all the colonial documents from the office here, and that Mr. Mason, Mr. Clayton and Mr. Pearce were its friends, but he does not know its fate.

Very truly and respectfully yours,

G. M. DALLAS.

HON. J. C. DOBBIN, &c.

[VI.—D. L. SWAIN TO HON. J. C. DOBBIN.]

CHAPEL HILL, Sept. 10, 1856.

My Dear Sir: I am greatly obliged, by the receipt of your note of the 6th, and the accompanying communications from Mr. Dallas of the 15th and 22d ult. I have availed myself of your permission to take copies of the latter, and in compliance with your request, I now return the originals.

The principal object I desired to attain, through the intervention of Mr. Dallas, was a renewal of the courtesy exhibited to the State in the correspondence between Mr. Gallatin, Mr. Lack and Lord Dudley, in 1827, in the permission to take copies of documents in the public offices in London, and more especially to ascertain whether a like permission could be obtained from Lord Clarendon, and the other representatives of the original Lords Proprietors of Carolina. Upon these subjects I hope to hear from him, when relieved from the diplomatic difficulties and labors, which require immediate and constant attention.

In the mean time you will greatly oblige me, by transmitting this note to him as an acknowledgment of his kindness.

With a hope that a brief sojourn among your friends in Fayetteville may have the effect to enable you to return to your duties in improved health and spirits,

I am very sincerely and truly,

Your friend and servant,

D. L. SWAIN.

Honorable J. C. DOBBIN.

[VII.—JARED SPARKS LL.D. TO D. L. SWAIN.]

CAMBRIDGE, February 1, 1856.

My Dear Sir: In regard to the first inquiry in your letter of December 19, I regret that I cannot give you any information concerning the loyalists, Fanning, Hamilton and Craig. Nor do I know where you will be likely to find the papers of Governor Martin. If they have been preserved, they are doubtless in the hands of some branch of his family in England, and may perhaps be brought to light by pursuing the enquiry in that country.

As to Chalmers, he undoubtedly procured nearly the whole of his materials from the archives of the Board of Trade. He was, for a long time, the Secretary of that Board. His Papers, after having been bound in volumes, were sold by his nephew, a few years ago, at auction, in London. I purchased six volumes of them relating mostly to New England. They are not important, being memoranda, references and extracts used in writing his annals. In his chapter on Carolina, I observe he refers to volumes of "Carolina Entries," and also to "Carolina Papers." These are all probably now in the office of the Board of Trade, unless they have been removed to the State-Paper Office since Chalmers' time.

I remember seeing volumes entitled "Proprieties." In these, will be found papers relating to Carolina, under the Proprietary government, as mentioned by Mr. Gallatin. I forbear to enlarge on this subject, because I deem it absolutely essential that you, or some other agent from this country, should make a personal research in the public offices in London. I have passed several weeks, at two separate times, in those offices, and I am sure that no instructions to any person there, however precise, will secure a thorough and complete examination. Such an agent should be already somewhat familiar with the details of the history of North-Carolina.

There are two distinct offices containing American colonial papers: first, that of the Board of Trade, and secondly, the State-Paper Office. The index furnished by Mr. Gallatin,

appears to include such papers only as are in the former; but there are many important papers of a more political character in the State-Paper Office, particularly from the date of the Stamp Act downwards. In short, a careful and thorough research should be made in both these offices.

The mode of application must be through the American Minister in London, and, with his aid, there will be no difficulty in procuring access to any of our Colonial papers, and permission to have them transcribed.

I hope you will find it consistent with your other occupations to fulfil this important agency yourself. I am persuaded you will not regret having performed a service, which, while it cannot fail to gratify your own tastes, will be so beneficial to the public.

I have not yet heard from Halifax, and I begin to fear we may be disappointed in our expectations from that quarter. It is possible that the descendants of the loyalists may feel a little delicacy on this point, and not be inclined to promote any new developments in the history of the unsuccessful efforts of their ancestors, although acting in defence of what they deemed at the time a loyal and just cause.

You have probably received before this time the volume of Tryon's Letter Book, by the hands of Professor Hedrick. Please present my high regards to him, and accept the assurance of the high respect and esteem of

Yours, most truly,

JARED SPARKS.

Hon. D. L. SWAIN, *President, &c.*

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[VIII.—COL. PETER FORCE TO HON. J. C. DOBBIN.]

WASHINGTON, August 22d, 1856.

Dear Sir: I have read with care and with interest the letter you have from Gov. Swain. His views cover the whole ground, and it will be a proud day for North-Carolina when his suggestions are carried into full effect. Every public pa-

per in England that relates to the State should be obtained, for until that is done the materials for its history will not be complete, and this can only be done by the employment of an intelligent and faithful agent.

The only suggestion I have to make, is in regard to the agent. He should not only be intelligent and faithful, but he should be familiar with the duties that would be required of him, and have a general knowledge of all the depositories of American papers in all the public offices in London, and as far as may be elsewhere. I know of but one person who has the ability and perseverance, united with the necessary acquaintance with the public offices and officers, to enable him to perform the task satisfactorily. The person I allude to is Mr. Henry Stevens, an American, who, during several years residence in London, has become well known to the gentlemen in the various Departments there, and who has furnished numerous transcripts of public documents and papers to public institutions and private persons in this country. If Gov. Swain could engage his services, I feel assured that what he purposes to have done for the State would be well done.

Very respectfully, &c.,

PETER FORCE.

Hon. J. C. DOBBIN, Washington.

[IX.—REV. DR. HAWKS TO D. L. SWAIN.]

NEW YORK, Oct. 25, 1856.

My Dear Sir: On my return home, after an absence of three weeks, I found your letter awaiting my arrival. This must be my apology for not replying sooner. I rejoice greatly that our State has moved in the business of securing, while yet she may, such portions of our Documentary history, as yet remain in England, in the form of MSS.

I satisfied myself when in London, that there was much in the Colonial office, papers of ante-revolutionary times, that we ought to have, to make our story complete. But there is also,

I am persuaded, much that is valuable in the hands of the descendents of the Lord's Proprietors. On a proper application, I presume it might be obtained.

I am certain, however, that no agent but one already familiar with our history as far as it is known, can do us much good; and therefore, I rejoice that the work is committed to your hands. I am deeply interested in your prosecution of it to a successful termination.

In my own humble labors, I feel the need of documentary evidence yet in England: not in my first volume, for that you know embraces the early attempts at colonization, under the auspices of Sir Walter Raleigh only, and I think I have about all that remains to us on that subject. But in my second and subsequent volumes, I have relied very much on this movement of the State, to furnish materials for speaking confidently and truthfully. I can, indeed, tell the story from such sources of information as we have; but, as an honest man, I should be obliged frankly to say, though I have sought for *truth*, I am not sure I have always found it. I pray you, therefore, do not relax your efforts to get the matter that is in England.

I thank you very much for repeating your kind offer of aid in my work. The truth is, I did not mean to put any MS. but that of the first vol. to press, without our minute joint examination. As to the first, I knew just what material there was for it, and that neither you nor I could add to it; and besides, I was anxious, if possible, to lay the beginning of my work before the next Legislature, and say: You see what I am trying to do for our State—pray help me, by affording me unrestricted access to all our archives.

I hope to see you this winter, and to travel with you over a great deal of historic ground, now overgrown with thickets; but I trust we shall be able to cut our way through, and let in the sun-light.

I hope you will not deem it presumptuous in me to say, that I think you and I together can make a *true* history of North-Carolina. So far as my opinion is of any value, you are free to say, that I consider the thorough examination of

the papers in England, by some one who, like yourself, knows all that we now possess of our early history, to be of the very first importance to a truthful narrative of the past; that we ought to possess copies of these papers; and that I earnestly hope our countrymen will facilitate, in every way they can, your efforts to obtain them.

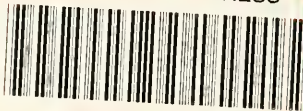
With very sincere regard,

Your friend,

FRANCIS L. HAWKS.

To. Hon. D. L. SWAIN, *University N. C.*

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